

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Has there been a public demonstration of the system? Has there been independent, impartial review of the system? Does the system require personally produced material to implement a flag for viewing? The public deserves to understand the purpose of the system and exactly how it might restrict their rights to fair use.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? Have the various proposed schemes survived these tests, fairly judged by unbiased professionals? If any flag system should interfere with in-home distribution or storage of the material it should not be considered for approval.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

It would be unacceptable for the performance of existing equipment to be compromised by any proposed flag protocol. Response by uncompliant equipment to each proposed flag method should be monitored and evaluated by an independent laboratory

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

It would be detrimental to the technology if any proposed flag system should prevent further improvements in any way. Have all solutions been examined by unprejudiced engineers familiar with the processes?

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

Since the broadcast flag is of no advantage to the consumer, its cost must be negligible. The actual cost of implementation should be determined by independent evaluation of proposed schemes.

Other Comments:

Public disclosure of the proceedings and findings should be made available so that all issues are addressed prior to any commitment to a particular broadcast flag implementation . If there is any uncertainty about the aptness of any proposed method, the public should receive the benefit of the doubt and it should be removed from consideration.